

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	RM-10805
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's)	RM-10806
Amateur Radio Service Rules to Eliminate)	RM-10807
Morse Code Proficiency Testing Requirements)	RM-10808
For All Classes of Amateur Licenses)	RM-10809
)	RM-10810
To: The Commission)	RM-10811

Comments Of Barbara Robison

First, I am not an amateur radio license holder, however I am married to one and my son is also one along with many of their friends. I am submitting my comments to these proposals as someone that has some knowledge of the field but at the same time will not be directly affected by your ruling either in favor or against the proposals to remove the morse code testing requirement.

I have recently listened to many very long and sometimes very heated discussions on the topic of whether to keep or remove the testing requirement for morse code as part of the upgrade procedure for obtaining the different classes of amateur license. I have heard the statements that it is a part of the tradition of amateur radio, that it is sometimes the only mode that will work in an emergency, that it is a filter to keep the "undesirables" out of amateur radio as reasons to keep the testing requirement. On the side of dropping the requirement I have heard that it is a barrier to getting new people into the field, that it is an unfair test of putting too much focus on only one of the modes of operation, that it is "**ONLY**" a tradition of amateur radio and should not be a requirement for license, that the majority of people only learn it long enough to pass the test, along with many other reasons.

Through out history people have resisted change and feared something new or different from the, "**way it has always been done**". If we as a society were to accept that argument that "It is the way it has always been done" then I think if someone really gave it some thought, where would we be today, the very pioneering spirit that amateur radio has a long reputation of being the first to try new things, to experiment with new equipment, with new ways of doing things, the very willingness of the people in amateur radio to challenge "The Way Things Have Always Been" is what I pick up from my family as being the very special aspect of amateur radio. And now the very people that once were part of that group that at one time were in the forefront of challenging the status quo are now the same people saying "This is the way it has always been and should not be changed". A very few years ago I heard the same comments when the testing requirement for morse code was dropped down to 5 wpm, and dropped for the technician level license entirely. The predictions then were that

the technician level would turn into the next “CB’er” band, however from what I have heard that did not happen. Change in itself is not bad, and to think that now the pioneers of Amateur Radio want to hold on to the past rather than move forward into the future is more of an indication of the eventual death of amateur radio than any perceived idea that to make changes will cause the death of the hobby.

In summary, it is my opinion that to resist change in the amateur service by not accepting the fact that it is time to do away with the morse code testing would be that same as saying that since at one time we all rode horses for transportation then we should still require that a person demonstrate that they know how to saddle a horse in order to get a driver’s license. It is time to move on to matters that will really make a difference rather than continuing to cling to the past. I therefore urge you to accept the fact that it is time to make a change, to move amateur radio into the future and eliminate the morse code testing requirement, and start encouraging people to once again be on the leading edge in radio communications by moving forward rather than clinging to the past.

How you eventually decide to act on this issue will not directly affect me personally, however it will have an impact of the radio technology of the future if you do not encourage more people with the pioneering spirit to get into the field to provide for the new ideas of the future. **I therefore request that you take action on these proposals, eliminate the morse code testing and get on with the more pressing issues before you.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Robison

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